

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 15, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
Oregon House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 2251A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted no on HB 2251A today because I believe this is an issue that should be decided at the local level. Our school boards, educators, and communities are best positioned to determine policies around cell phone use in schools—policies that reflect the unique needs of their students, families, and classrooms.

While I understand the concerns that prompted this bill, HB 2251A takes a one-size-fits-all approach to a complex issue. It removes flexibility from districts and limits opportunities for students to responsibly use technology during the school day, including during lunch and passing periods.

I also worry about the broader precedent this sets. As legislators, we should be cautious about overreaching into matters that are—and should remain—under the authority of local decision-makers.

I remain committed to supporting student success, mental health, and classroom focus. But I believe those goals are best achieved in partnership with our schools—not by legislating blanket mandates from Salem.

Sincerely,

Representative Annessa Hartman
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County